

Sierra Nevada Conservancy Governing Board to Meet in North Fork in Madera County on June 3-4

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May 2015- Auburn – The Sierra Nevada Conservancy (SNC) Governing Board will meet in North Fork in Madera County on June 3-4 for its quarterly board meeting.

On June 3, the **Board will tour North Fork Community Power's forest bioenergy project** at the North Fork Mill Site. The tour will focus on the role of wood and biomass processing infrastructure in the Sierra Nevada Region and how the facility in North Fork will help to protect the community from wildfire, restore forest health, and improve local socio-economic conditions. The Sierra Nevada Conservancy helped to fund the preproject planning work for this facility. In April, a grant in the amount of \$4.9 million was awarded by the California Energy Commission for construction of the forest-sourced biomass gasification plant.

The field trip is scheduled to start at 1:00 p.m. at the USFS Bass Lake Ranger District, 57003 Road 225, North Fork, CA 93643. A reception will be held following the tour at Cross Roads Lumber located at 57839 Road 225, North Fork, CA 93643.

The Board meeting will begin at 9:00 a.m. on June 4 at the North Fork Rancheria Community Center, 56900 Kunugib Way, North Fork, CA 93643. The Board will consider adopting guidelines for the SNC's Proposition 1 Grant Program, and will receive an update on the Sierra Nevada Watershed Improvement Program.

The public is invited to attend all SNC events; however, lunch and transportation are not provided. Complete information on the meeting agenda, staff reports, and field trip are available online at **www.SierraNevada.ca.gov**.

About the Sierra Nevada Conservancy, Governing Board

Created in 2004, the Sierra Nevada Conservancy (SNC) is a state agency whose mission is to improve the environmental, economic, and social well-being of the Sierra Nevada Region. The SNC has awarded over \$50 million in grants for projects to protect and enhance the health of California's primary watersheds by improving forest health, remediating mercury contamination from abandoned mines,

protecting critical natural resources, and reducing the risk of catastrophic wildfire. Funding for these projects came from Proposition 84 passed by voters in 2006.

The SNC Governing Board meets quarterly around the Sierra Nevada Region, which spans 25 million acres, encompasses all or part of 22 counties, and runs from the Oregon border on the north, to Kern County on the south. The Region is the origin of more than 60 percent of California's developed water supply.